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SOURCE Neue Justiz.CRIME DETECTION INSTITUTE OF GDR PEOPLE'S POLICE

The KTI (Kriminaltechnisches Institut, Crime Detection Institute) in Berlin, which was set up by order of the chief of the GDR People's Police, recently invited representatives of the democratic press to participate in a tour of its quarters. In his introductory remarks, People's Police Inspector Rothe outlined the purpose and functions of the KTI as follows:

The Institute is to serve the entire GDR in matters involving crime detection techniques. Its activities are to serve as proof to the working population that all possible efforts are being made to secure and protect the building of the foundations of socialism. At the same time, the activities of the KTI are to serve as a warning to all hostile elements that the People's Police is carrying out an intensive campaign against crime through the application of the latest scientific discoveries and the most modern technological methods.

The crime-detection techniques of the KTI are based on the axiom that every criminal leaves at the scene of the crime clues which must be discovered, preserved, and made visible. The KTI then places its findings at the disposal of the public prosecutors and the courts. This material serves as objective evidence which, when combined with subjective evidence (confessions, eye-witness accounts, etc.) establishes conclusive proof of guilt.

The progressive investigation techniques and methods of Soviet criminologists serve as guides for the training and work of the institute's employees.

The KTI at Berlin was set up as a result of the GDR administrative reform which abolished the individual Laender research units.

The institute is furnished exclusively with equipment produced by the people-owned industries. It has the support of all pertinent authorities in matters involving procurement, equipment, and personnel.

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The visitors were impressed by the excellent organization of the KTI. All employees were at their duty stations and were prepared to answer the numerous questions put to them. Practical demonstrations of the equipment were given where possible. These demonstrations emphasized the manifold potentialities of criminal research.

The various fields of activity of the KTI include: biology and bacteriology (tests on blood, plants, and hair, and bacteriological tests); chemical tests; ballistics and weapons tests; tests made in connection with fires and explosions; metallography; spectrum analysis; photography (black and white, infrared, ultraviolet, and color photography); handwriting and typewriting analysis; and finger-print analysis.

In addition, the operating methods of unknown criminals are checked against those of known criminals. Reports on missing persons are checked against reports on unidentified bodies.

All existing fingerprint files are now concentrated at the KTI so that rapid checks can be made in this field as well.

All GDR People's Police headquarters are kept currently informed on all important matters through an information bulletin. The channeling of all bulletins to the KTI makes it possible to issue warnings concerning certain types of crimes, for example crimes involving the use of explosives, acids, poisons, etc.

In his concluding remarks People's Police Inspector Rothe pointed out that the facilities of the KTI were not yet being fully utilized by the courts and by the public prosecutors. He expressed hope that close collaboration would be established with these offices and with the medicolegal institutes at the universities, so that the foundations of socialism in the GDR might be protected through their joint efforts.

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